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PTQ9313

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(D)

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ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	AF-00	AID-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00	EB-00
	VC-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	L-00	AC-01
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00
	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	T-00
	USIE-00	PMB-00	PRM-00	DRL-02	G-00	SAS-00	/007W
				-----BCA89E	131618Z	/07	

R 122015Z JUN 02
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6347
NSC WASHDC
USCINCSO MIAMI FL
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CARACAS 001674

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD
NSC FOR SALCEDO

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/11/12

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, PHUM, VE

SUBJECT: POLITICAL UPDATE JUNE 12

CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR CHARLES S. SHAPIRO. REASONS 1.5
(B) & (D)

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RANGEL CLARIFIES CHAVEZ'S THREAT TO MEDIA

1. (U) VICE PRESIDENT JOSE VICENTE RANGEL SAID PUBLICLY JUNE 11 THAT OF COURSE THE MEDIA WAS ENTITLED TO COVER POLITICAL EVENTS LIKE THE ANTI-CHAVEZ MARCHES. THIS RETRACTION CAME AFTER PRESIDENT CHAVEZ, ON HIS JUNE 9 "ALO PRESIDENTE" TELEVISION PROGRAM, HAD THREATENED TO PULL THE LICENSES OF TV STATIONS IF THEIR NEWS PROGRAMS COVERED ANY ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES. THE TV STATIONS OWNERS HAD ALREADY VOWED TO CHALLENGE CHAVEZ ON THIS THREAT TO PRESS FREEDOM, AND PRESENTED A VERY AGGRESSIVE LETTER TO RANGEL ON JUNE 11.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L MILLS
DATE/CASE ID: 25 APR 2005 200400109

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MARCHS COULD PROVOKE VIOLENCE

2. (U) THE OPPOSITION INTENDS TO HOLD WHAT THEY HOPE WILL BE A HUGE MARCH ON JUNE 15 TO COMMEMORATE THE TWO MONTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SHOOTING AT PUENTE LLAGUNO ON APRIL 11. (HOLDING THE MARCH ON A SATURDAY WILL PERMIT MORE PEOPLE TO ATTEND. IN APRIL, EMPLOYERS CLOSED THEIR BUSINESSES BUT PAID THEIR EMPLOYEES DURING THE WORK STOPPAGE AND GENERAL STRIKE.) ORGANIZERS HAVE STATED THAT THIS MARCH WILL ALSO HEAD TO MIRAFLORES PALACE. LIBERTADOR MAYOR FREDDY BERNAL, WHO IS WIDELY BELIEVED TO HAVE HAD A ROLE IN PLANNING THE APRIL 11 VIOLENCE, DENIED PERMISSION FOR A JUNE 20 MARCH PASSING THROUGH HIS MUNICIPALITY. THE RETIRED MILITARY OFFICERS PLANNING THE MARCH SAID THEY WOULD DISREGARD

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BERNAL.

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ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	AF-00	AID-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00	EB-00
	VC-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	L-00	AC-01
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00
	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	T-00
	USIE-00	PMB-00	PRM-00	DRL-02	G-00	SAS-00	/007W

-----BCAA44 131628Z /07

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 CARACAS 001674

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CONDOMS?

7. (U) PRESIDENT CHAVEZ'S REMARKS ON THE JUNE 9 "ALO PRESIDENTE" SHOW HAVE ELICITED ALMOST AS MUCH COMMENT AS HIS EARLY APRIL SHOW IN WHICH HE FIRED PDVSA EMPLOYEES ON THE AIR. ON JUNE 9 HE SAID THAT CIVILIAN CONSPIRATORS TREATED MILITARY OFFICERS LIKE CONDOMS: THEY USED THEM ONCE THEN DISCARDED THEM.

SHAPIRO

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